REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 8, 2003. In order to advance prosecution of this case, Applicants amend Claims 1, 17, 30, 40-43, 56, 73, and 81. Applicants cancel Claims 4, 80, and 88 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants add new Claims 89-95, which are fully supported by the Application as originally filed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Section 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 73-88 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,559,875 issued to Bieselin et al. (*"Bieselin"*) and U.S. Patent No. 5,710,591 issued to Bruno et al. (*"Bruno"*).

As amended Claim 73 recites:

> A method for identifying a participant during a conference call, comprising:
> storing identification information and voice profile information for at least some of the participants in a conference call, the voice profile information including frequency characteristics of one or more participants;
> detecting the reception of a message containing data that represents voice characteristics;
> determining whether the voice characteristics correspond to the frequency characteristics of the voice profile information; and
> generating a message containing the corresponding voice profile information and associated identification information if the voice characteristics correspond to any of the voice profile information.

Neither *Bruno* nor *Bieselin* anticipates every element of amended Claim 73. *Bieselin* discloses a system for conference calls that utilizes participant records. As disclosed in *Bieselin*, a participant record includes:

> a user index 226 to the user profile record 230 for each registered participant, and in addition, provides the pointer to the audio data file header record that is associated with the audio data blocks that contain the voice data of the spoken name of the identified participant. The spoken name of the participant is used to generate audio announcements of the entry, departure and speakers during the recorded conference.

Col. 5, ll. 6-14. *Bieselin* also indicates that:

> circuitry can be used to determine voice signals on a particular line card interface; the system can therefore identify the conference participant by the line card or input/output port the conference participant is coupled to. Alternately, speech processing which uses a conference participant's voice print to identify the conference participant speaking may be employed.

Col. 7, ll. 16-22. Thus, *Bieselin* uses the participant's "voice print" in some undisclosed manner to identify the speaking participant. Moreover, *Bieselin* does not disclose the origin of this "voice print." Therefore, *Bieselin* does not disclose "determining whether the voice characteristics correspond to the frequency characteristics of the voice profile information" as recited by amended Claim 73. As a result, *Bieselin* does not anticipate every element of Claim 73.

Similarly, *Bruno* also fails to disclose every element of Claim 73. *Bruno* also discloses a system for conference calls. *Bruno* merely indicates that "[b]y utilizing known voice identification or voice printing techniques employed by the computer 32', or by otherwise requiring that each conference participant expressly identify her or himself to the computer, the identity of each speaker can be determined." Col. 7, ll. 42-46. *Bruno* does not disclose "determining whether the voice characteristics correspond to the frequency characteristics of the voice profile information" as recited by amended Claim 73. Thus, *Bruno* also does not anticipate every element of Claim 73, and Claim 73 is allowable for at least these reasons. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 73 and its dependents.

Furthermore, many dependents of Claim 73 are allowable for additional reasons than those discussed for Claim 73. For example, Claim 76 recites:

> The method of Claim 75, further comprising:
> determining that no identification information corresponds to the name; and
> generating a request to be sent to a second database regarding the name.

Neither *Bieselin* nor *Bruno* discloses "determining that no identification information corresponds to the name" nor "generating a request to be sent to a second database regarding the name" as recited by Claim 76. Thus, both *Bieslin* and *Bruno* fail to anticipate every element of Claim 76, and Claim 76 is allowable for at least this additional reason. As noted above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 76.

As another example, Claim 78 recites:

The method of Claim 73, further comprising:
    receiving a second set of voice profile information associated with a participant; and
    updating the voice profile information of the participant based on the second set of voice profile information.

Neither *Bruno* nor *Bieselin* disclose "updating the voice profile information of the participant based on the second set of voice profile information." Thus, *Bruno* and *Bieselin* fail to disclose this additional element of Claim 78, and Claim 78 is allowable for at least this additional reason. As noted above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 78.

Although of differing scope from Claim 73, Claim 81 includes elements that, for reasons substantially similar to those discussed above for Claim 73, are not anticipated by either *Bieslin* or *Bruno*. Thus, Claim 81 is allowable for at least this reason. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 81.

Furthermore, many dependents of Claim 81 are allowable for reasons additional to those discussed for Claim 81. For example, although Claims 84 and 86 differ in scope from Claims 76 and 78, respectively, Claims 84 and 86 include elements, that for reasons substantially similar to those discussed above for Claims 76 and 78, respectively, are not anticipated by *Bieselin* or *Bruno*. Claims 84 and 86 are thus allowable for at least these additional reasons. As noted above, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 84 and 86.

Applicants cancel Claims 80 and 88, thereby obviating the Examiner's rejection of these claims.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-72 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bieselin* or *Bruno*.

As amended, Claim 1 recites:

> A method for identifying a participant during a conference call, comprising:
> receiving a packet containing data that represents audible sounds spoken by one of a plurality of participants in a conference call;
> determining a speaker of the audible sounds using frequency characteristics stored in a voice profile of the participants; and
> providing identification information of the speaker to the other participants in the conference call contemporaneously with providing audible sounds based on the data to those participants.

Both *Bruno* and *Bieselin*, alone and in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest every element of amended Claim 1. As noted above, both *Bruno* and *Bieselin* fail to disclose "determining a speaker of the audible sounds using frequency characteristics stored in a voice profile of the participants" as amended Claim 1 also recites. Because both *Bruno* and *Bieselin* fail to disclose this element, combination of the two does not remedy the omission. Consequently, *Bruno* and *Bieselin*, both alone and in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest every element of amended Claim 1, and Claim 1 is thus allowable for at least this reason. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 1 and its dependents.

Furthermore, many dependents of Claim 1 are allowable for additional reasons than those discussed for Claim 1. For example, Claim 9 recites:

> The method of Claim 1, wherein providing identification information for the speaker to the other participants comprises generating a message indicating that no participant has been associated with the audible sounds if the audible sounds are not determined to be associated with the voice profile information of the participants.

Neither *Bruno* nor *Bieselin* disclose "generating a message indicating that no participant has been associated with the audible sounds if the audible sounds are not determined to be associated with the voice profile information of the participants." Thus, *Bruno* and *Bieselin* fail to disclose, teach, or suggest this element of Claim 9, and Claim 9 is allowable for at least this additional reason. As noted above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 9.

As another example, Claim 10 recites:

> The method of Claim 1, further comprising updating the voice profile
> information based on the audible sounds if the audible sounds are associated
> with the voice profile information of one of the participants.

Neither *Bruno* nor *Bieselin* disclose, teach, or suggest "updating the voice profile information based on the audible sounds if the audible sounds are associated with the voice profile information of one of the participants." Thus, *Bruno* and *Bieselin* fail to disclose, teach, or suggest this element of Claim 10, and Claim 10 is allowable for at least this additional reason. As noted above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 10.

As another example, Claim 13 recites:

> The method of Claim 1, further comprising adjusting, based on the
> identity of the speaker, the direction from which the audible sounds based on
> the data arrive at a participant of the conference call.

Both *Bruno* and *Bieselin* fail to disclose, teach, or suggest "adjusting, based on the identity of the speaker, the direction from which the audible sounds based on the data arrive at a participant of the conference call." Thus, Claim 13 is allowable for at least this additional reason. As noted above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 13.

Although of differing scope from Claim 1 and from one another, amended Claims 17, 30, 43, and 56 include elements that, for reasons substantially similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 1, are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Bruno* or *Bieselin*. Claims 17, 30, 43, and 56 are allowable for at least this reason. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 17, 30, 43, and 56, and their respective dependents.

Furthermore, several dependents of Claims 17, 30, 43, and 56 are allowable for additional reasons. For example, although of differing scope from Claim 9 and one another, Claims 25, 38, 51, and 66 include elements that, for reasons substantially similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 9, are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Bruno* or *Bieselin*. Claims 25, 38, 51, and 66 are allowable for at least these additional reasons. Thus, as noted above, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 25, 38, 51, and 66.

As additional examples, although of differing scope from Claim 10 and one another, Claims 26, 39, 52, and 67 include elements that, for reasons substantially similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 10, are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Bruno* or *Bieselin*. Claims 26, 39, 52, and 67 are allowable for at least these additional reasons. Thus, as noted above, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 26, 39, 52, and 67.

Claim 72 recites:

> An apparatus for identifying a participant during a conference call, comprising:
>
> a communication interface adapted to be coupled to a communication network, the communication interface operable to send information to and receive information from the communication network, the communication interface further operable to receive a packet containing data that represents audible sounds;
>
> a memory coupled to the communication interface, the memory operable to store a program containing logic and to store a database containing voice profile information and identification information for at least some of the participants in a conference call;
>
> a codec coupled to the memory, the codec operable to decode the data in the packet;
>
> a digital signal processor coupled to the memory, the digital signal processor operable to determine voice characteristics of the decoded data; and
>
> a processor coupled to the memory, the processor operable to:
>
>> determine whether the voice characteristics are associated with the voice profile information of one of the participants,
>>
>> generate a message including identification information associated with the identified voice profile information if the audible sounds are associated with the voice profile information for one of the participants,
>>
>> generate a message indicating that no voice profile information has been associated with the audible sounds if the audible sounds are not associated with the voice profile information of the participants, and
>>
>> update the voice profile information in the database based on the audible sounds if the audible sounds are determined to be associated with the voice profile information for one of the possible participants.

As noted above, *Bieselin* and *Bruno* fail to disclose, teach, or suggest a processor operable to "generate a message indicating that no voice profile information has been associated with the audible sounds if the audible sounds are not associated with the voice profile information of the participants" or "update the voice profile information in the

database based on the audible sounds if the audible sounds are determined to be associated with the voice profile information for one of the possible participants" as recited by Claim 72. Thus, *Bieselin* and *Bruno*, both alone and in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest every element of Claim 72, and Claim 72 is thus allowable for at least these reasons. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 72.

Applicants cancel Claim 4, thereby obviating the Examiner's rejection of this claim.

New Claims

Applicants add new Claims 89-95, which are fully supported by the Application as original filed. Although of differing scope from Claim 13 and one another, new Claims 89-95 include elements that, for reasons substantially similar to those discussed above for Claim 13, are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Bieselin* or *Bruno*, either alone or in combination. Thus, Claims 89-95 are allowable for at least these reasons. Applicants request consideration and full allowance of new Claims 89-95.
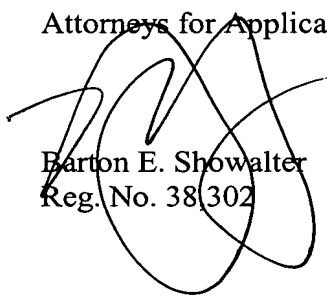
Conclusions

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

A check in the amount of $90.00 is enclosed to cover the fee for additional claims. no other fees are believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants

Barton E. Showalter
Reg. No. 38,302

2001 Ross Avenue, Suite 600
Dallas, Texas 75201-2980
(214) 953-6509

Date: Jan. 5, 2004

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

Customer Number: 05073